



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS MAY 16 AS ARMED FORCES DAY

RALEIGH— Gov. Mike Easley today proclaimed May 16 as Armed Forces Day to recognize the contributions made by our service men and women.

“Today we honor the men and women who make the greatest sacrifice by risking their lives to defend this country’s freedom,” said Easley. “Approximately 120,000 active duty personnel are stationed on North Carolina bases – our United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units. They continually stand ready to protect us at home and abroad. The support for our troops and their families has been terrific and I hope North Carolina remains committed to being the most military-friendly state in the nation.”

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days, stemming from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department – the Department of Defense.

The proclamation reads:

ARMED FORCES DAY

2003

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days, stemming from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department – the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina continues a noble tradition of helping to provide for the "*common defense*" of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units continually stand ready at North Carolina bases to defend freedom both here and abroad; and